

Funding Sources

There are several sources of funding for the implementation of conservation plans in whole or part. The following organizations provide such funding. This list is not intended to list all sources so organizations can be added by request to the AFW ITT committee.

Section 206 Program

Contact: US Army Corps of Engineers

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 provides authority to the USACE to fund aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection. The program covers work for either structural or operational changes that will improve the environment. The type of work can include reconnecting old river channels and backwaters, creating or restoring wetlands, improving water quality through the reduction of erosion and sedimentation, and revegetating floodplains and riparian zones.

Each project must be sponsored by and coordinated with a local interest such as a city, county, or state. The sponsors share is 35% of the cost and can be provided through other grants or in-kind contributions. The sponsor will be responsible for any operation and maintenance after the project is constructed. The federal government's share of each project's cost may not exceed \$5 million. This cost limitation includes all project-related costs for studies, design, preparation of plans and specifications, supervision and administration, and construction. Cost for lands, easements, relocations, and right-of-way are also included in the total. A project feasibility study, including preparation, review, and approval, generally requires 1 to 2 years for completion.

Section 22 Program

Contact: US Army Corps of Engineers

The Section 22 program allows the USACE to assist local and state governments and agencies including Indian tribes, in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Typical studies are for a planning level of detail and do not include design for construction. The study is cost-shared with non-federal sponsors on a 50-50 basis. Individual studies range in cost from \$5,000 to \$200,000. The study is generally completed within a year of project approval.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Contact: Local Conservation Districts, USDA Farm Services Agency

The Washington Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a joint effort between the State of Washington and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore fish habitat on private agricultural lands. Landowners contract with the USDA Farm Services Agency to take land adjacent to salmon streams out of agricultural production and plant it with native trees and shrubs for up to 15 years. In return, the Farm Services Agency will provide the landowner with a rental check annually and pay for up to 50% and the state up to 37.5% (for a total of 87.5%) of cost of changing from agricultural use to trees. Leases are for 10 to 15 years as chosen by the landowner, and rental payments consist of 150% of Farm Services Agency soil rental rates per

acre on a per acre basis. Land adjacent to salmon streams that are being used for agricultural production, including hay and pasturelands, can be eligible for the program.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Contact: USDA Farm Services Agency

The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

Washington State Salmon Restoration Program

Contact: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Washington State Salmon restoration Program has \$4.5 million available for salmon restoration projects. The funds are available through a competitive grant process requiring at least 1-1 matching funds from sources other than the federal government. The program is focused on supporting local partnerships between groups such as conservation districts, irrigation districts, and county, state, and federal agencies.

Community-Based Restoration Program

Contact: National Marine Fisheries Service

The NMFS Community-based Restoration Program is an effort to help local groups and individuals interested in restoring aquatic habitat. The program encourages grass-roots efforts and partnerships by providing funding to local technical expertise to help carry out meaningful restoration projects. Support has ranged from \$1,000 to \$500,000 per project, although up to \$2 million can be invested for national partnerships and \$1 million for regional partnerships. Approximately \$8 million is budgeted for this program in 2001. Examples of projects supported through this program include fishway installation, fish blockage removals, riparian buffer restoration, and wetland restoration.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has approved funding from the Washington State legislature of nearly \$32 million for salmon recovery across the state for 2001. The SRFB funded 147 projects across the state in 2000. Projects include acquisition of key habitat, vegetation plantings, passage barrier removal, large wood placement, and feasibility studies. Project support ranged from approximately \$9,000 to \$1.3 million. Proposals are submitted to one of 25 watershed groups that are the lead entities that sponsor project request. A scientific review panel created by the SRFB then rates proposals based on their benefit to salmon and the project certainty.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Contact: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation. The purposes of the program are achieved through the implementation of a conservation plan, which includes structural, vegetative, and land management practices on eligible land. Five- to ten-year contracts are made with eligible producers. Cost-share payments may be made to implement one or more eligible structural or vegetative practices, such as animal waste management facilities, terraces, filter strips, tree planting, and permanent wildlife habitat. Incentive payments can be made to implement one or more land management practices, such as nutrient management, pest management, and grazing land management.

Fifty percent of the funding available for the program will be targeted at natural resource concerns relating to livestock production. The program is carried-out primarily in priority areas that may be watersheds, regions, or multi-state areas, and for significant statewide natural resource concerns that are outside of geographic priority areas.

Flood Risk Reduction Program (FRR)

Contact: USDA, Farm Service Agency

The Flood Risk Reduction Program was established to allow farmers who voluntarily enter into contracts to receive payments on lands with high flood potential. In return, participants agree to forego certain USDA program benefits. These contract payments provide incentives to move farming operations from frequently flooded land.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

Contact: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) supports good forest management practices on privately owned, non-industrial forestlands nationwide. FIP is designed to benefit the environment while meeting future demands for wood products. Eligible practices are tree planting, timber stand improvement, site preparation for natural regeneration, and other related activities. FIP is available in counties designated by a Forest Service survey of eligible private timber acreage.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Contact: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program to restore wetlands. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value

of the land and 100 percent of the restoration costs for restoring the wetlands. The 30-year easement payment is 75 percent of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75 percent of the restoration cost. The voluntary agreements are for a minimum 10-year duration and provide for 75 percent of the cost of restoring the involved wetlands. Easements and restoration cost-share agreements establish wetland protection and restoration as the primary land use for the duration of the easement or agreement. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Contact: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices. USDA and program participants enter into a cost-share agreement for wildlife habitat development. This agreement generally lasts a minimum of 10 years from the date that the contract is signed.

Section 319 - Centennial Clean Water Fund - State Revolving Loan Fund

Contact: Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program

Funds from these three programs may be used to address nonpoint pollution problems. Individuals cannot apply directly for funding, but local governments, tribes, and special purpose districts can apply. Grant funding may be awarded to conservation districts to use for conservation planning. Low-interest loans are available to help implement conservation plans. Ecology accepts applications for these funds once a year.